FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

28 FEBRUARY 1986

Egypt

President Husni Mubarak accepted Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdi's resignation 28 February, replacing him with Major General Zaki Badr, the former governor of Asyut, MENA reported. Badr's appointment followed Mubarak's meetings with top aides and with opposition party leaders the previous day, according to MENA, which cited statements by several opposition leaders that their talks with Mubarak were "frank." Meanwhile, Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz provided more details about the security situation in a news conference reported by MENA, stating that no incidents took place 27 February except for a gunbattle between officers in the Central Security Forces barracks near the Pyramids and soldiers surrounding the building. Al-Baz said that only a "very limited" number of civilians participated in the riots and he denied that members of the Jihad organization were among the escapees from Turah Prison. As for the casualty toll, he disclosed that 32 Security Forces conscripts were killed and 273 were wounded. Other casualties were: 2 soldiers killed and 12 wounded; 2 civilians killed and 36 wounded; and 4 injured tourists. The authorities have arrested more than 2,000 members of the Central Security Forces and "hundreds" of civilians, the public prosecutor announced in a statement cited by MENA. The agency also reported the information minister's announcement that the curfew will be lifted for 6 hours on 28 February.

In another development, Israel's *'AL HAMISHMAR* reported that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has invited the Israeli and U.S. delegations to attend the talks at the Mena House Hotel scheduled for 4 March, despite the damage sustained by the hotel during the recent riots.

In Libya, Voice of Greater Arab Homeland radio broadcast an appeal urging Egyptians to join the "popular revolution" and march "by the millions" to seize the Cairo radio station.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces smashed a heavy Iraqi counter-offensive in the al-Faw area early 28 February, inflicting 800 casualties on the enemy, IRNA announced. The agency claimed that Iraq's defense minister personally led the attack and that Iraqi "execution squads" were deployed behind the attackers to shoot any Iraqi troops fleeing the battlefield. Two more Iraqi jets were shot down in the area, IRNA claimed, noting that this brings to 64 Iran's tally of Iraqi warplanes downed since 9 February. As for Iran's offensive in the north, IRNA said the Iranians repulsed Iraqi counterattacks 26 and 27 February, inflicting over 100 casualties.

For Iraq's part, a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that Iraqi troops captured "extremely important positions" in the al-Faw area and halted Iranian attacks near Chuwartah, one of the Iraqi villages northeast of al-Sulaymaniyah. Meanwhile, Iraqi planes hit another large maritime target near the Iranian coast, a military spokesman disclosed in a statement to INA.

In Kuwait, visiting Iranian official Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam announced that Iran has halted oil exports, except to some "friendly" countries, and he said this suspension will last until the forthcoming OPEC meeting, scheduled for 16 March, KUNA reported. Sheykh ol-Eslam viewed this as part of Iran's drive to reduce the oil glut and restore price stability, denying that Iran's call for a freeze on OPEC oil exports stems from an inability to export oil because of the effect of Iraqi attacks.

In a separate development, the Iranian Interior Ministry announced the expulsion of four French nationals from Iran on grounds of espionage, according to Tehran radio. One of the expellees was AFP's correspondent in Tehran, Paris radio noted.

Israel

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres told visiting rabbis that Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi will "pay the price" if he tries to attack Israeli aircraft, adding that this may be the last price Al-Qadhdhafi is able to pay, Jerusalem radio reported. As for the situation in Egypt, Jerusalem television broadcast Peres' remarks expressing hope that President Mubarak will overcome the crisis and remain in power.

Syria

If the Israelis work to put the Golan Heights within their borders, Syria will work to put the Golan "in the middle of Syria and not on its borders," President Hafiz al-Asad declared in a speech to the People's Assembly broadcast by Damascus radio. History will record that the Golan was the climax of disaster for the Israelis, he predicted. Al-Asad also commented on the riots in Egypt, linking the "genuine popular uprising" with Egypt's adherence to the Camp David accords. Describing Husni Mubarak as "a good man at heart," Al-Asad said Mubarak would become a great Egyptian and Arab hero if he were to publicly renounce the accords.

On internal affairs, Al-Asad stressed the need to overcome economic problems by reducing consumption and imports, and he also urged the newly-elected assembly to take an active role in scrutinizing the implementation of legislation. Committees established by the previous Assembly failed to achieve their objectives and did not follow up issues properly, he said.

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New Economic Council Meets, Elects Officials

LD270711 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0510 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, February 26, BAKHTAR — The first session of the newly constituted Economic Consultative Council was held under the chairmanship of Sayyed Amanudin Amin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the DRA.

The session elected Sayyed Amanudin Amin as president, Mohammad Khan Jalalar, minister of commerce, 'Abdul Wahid Ahadi, head of the Ahadi Textile Mills and Qari Muhammad Aman Nawae, president of afghan department store, as deputy presidents of the council in a free and democratic atmosphere.

For the further expansion of the activities of the council, committees of trade and finance, construction and industry, agriculture and livestock, and transport servises were established. Members of these committees were also unanimously elected by the participants of the economic consultative council.

The Economic Consultative Council consists of 43, rpt 43, experts in various fields of economic activity, prominent social figures, national traders, and private entepreneurs they will play an important role in the development of the national economy by providing practical guidance and sound advice to the state in the formulation and implementation of the economic policy.

In the light of the decisions of the 16th plenum of the PDPA CC, the declaration of the Revolutionary Council and the ten theses of Babrak Karmal, the leader of the Afghan society, the role of the Economic Consultative Council was expanded under the framework of the Council of Ministers of the DRA for the improvement of the economic life of the country.

Government Marks USSR Friendship Treaty Anniversary

Telegram to Moscow

LD272222 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and the DRA Council of Ministers, have sent the following congratulatory telegram to Moscow on the occasion of 65th anniversary of concluding the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty, addressed to M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; A.A. Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and N.I. Ryzhkov, chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers:

The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and the DRA Council of Ministers and the Afghan people convey their heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to you, the CPSU Central Committee, the Supreme Soviet Presidium and the USSR Council of Ministers and to the friendly Soviet people on the occasion of 65th anniversary of signing the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty.

The immortal political value of the 1921 treaty is hidden in this: That this treaty is the manifestation of the new era of international relations on the basis of equal rights, reciprocal respect and noninterference in each other's affairs — that is to say the basis for peaceful coexistence proclaimed by the friend of the people of the East, V.I. Lenin. For this reason this treaty was transformed into a most solid foundation for the unswerving subsequent growth, consolidation of friendship, trust, and productive cooperation between our countries.

This treaty, which played an important role in the [word indistinct] and struggle of the young independent Afghan state vis-a-vis the conspiracies and continued intrigues of imperialism and colonial forces, is presently also the confident and solid guarantor for safeguarding the independence of our united country — the revolutionary Afghanistan — national sovereignty and the territorial integrity of the DRA.

With satisfaction we point out that after the April Revolution relations between our states have become all-around, more solid, firmer, and richer from the view point of contents, which enjoy huge and special importance under the present complicated international situation.

The PDPA, the DRA Government, and the toiling people of revolutionary Afghanistan express their profound gratitude to the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Government, and the great Soviet people, for their extended assistance to develop various spheres of the economy, social areas, culture, and education as well as for the timely international assistance to Afghanistan in the struggle against reaction, international imperialism and hegemonism — provoked by U.S. imperialism.

The DRA is highly assesses the consistent, peaceful, and Leninist foreign policy of the Soviet Union and completely supports the announcement of Comrade M.S. Gorbachev, secretary of the CPSU [title as heard], in which an extended and specific program is devised for the complete eradication of nuclear and chemical weapons and other weapons of mass destruction until the end of this century, and expresses support for the speedy realization of the agreements reached during the meeting by the Soviet and U.S. leaders in Geneva for the interest of all humanity.

We are confident that the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress in progress in Moscow, which will assist the implementation of the formidable socioeconomic program of the USSR until the year 2000, will play an important role in preventing nuclear war, and in maintaining peace in the whole world.

We wish you, dear comrades, and the fraternal Soviet people further victories in the implementation of the formidable program for the progress of Soviet society and the noble struggle for peace in the world.

In the future also we will use all of our efforts for the consolidation of the highest quality friendly relations and fraternal cooperation between the parties states and our people.

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee, the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and the DRA Council of Ministers.

Defense Ministry Gathering

LD231226 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] The 68th anniversary of the USSR Army and Navy and the 65th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty was marked today by officers, soldiers, and officials of the chief of General Staff of the Defense Ministry, Kabul Garrison, and a number of the officers and soldiers of the limited Soviet military contingent in Kabul at a gathering in the Defense Ministry conference hall.

Major General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and defense Central Committee and general-director of Army political affairs; Major General Sayyed Muhammad Gulabzoy, internal affairs minister; Major General Ghalam Faruq Yaqubi, state security minister; Brigadier General Abdul Haq Ulumi, official responsible for the Department of Justice and Defence of the PDPA Central Committee; and a number of the generals and Armed Forces officers participated in the gathering.

A BIA correspondent reports that at this gathering, Maj Gen Nazar Muhammad spoke about the fraternal and traditional Afghan-Soviet friendship, and particularly about the Soviet Union's internationalist cooperation with the Afghan people and Army. He congratulated the USSR on the 68th founding of the Navy and Armed Forces and the 65th anniversary of the signing of the treaty of friendship and good-neighborliness between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

The defense minister praised the role of the limited Soviet military contingent in carrying out its internationalist duties in revolutionary Afghanistan. He added that we are witnesses of the heroism of the Soviet officers and soldiers in Afghanistan, who with a fraternal spirit, are fighting shoulder-to-shoulder with the Afghan officers and soldiers to safeguard the country's independence and national sovereignty.

Also during this gathering, commendation letters were given to a number of officers and soldiers of the limited Soviet military contingent.

The gathering ended with an interesting concert.

National Guard Ceremony

LD240314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1330 GMT 23 Feb 86

[Text] A ceremony was held today at Salam Khana Hall by officials of the National Guard brigade to mark Afghan-Soviet friendship week and the 68th anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Army.

The officers, soldiers, and officials of the National Guard brigade, and a number of officers from the limited contingent of the friendly forces participated in this ceremony.

At the beginning, the political head of the National Guard talked about the traditional friendship between the Afghan people and Soviet Union, and that country's military cooperation for the safeguarding of the DRA's national independence, and territorial integrity, and the fraternal solidarity of the DRA Armed Forces with the freedom-giving Soviet Armed Forces.

A BIA correspondent reports that during this ceremony an officer of the friendly forces and Muhammad Aref, a national guard soldier, spoke about the common struggle of the soldiers of the limited Soviet military contingent and the heroic soldiers of the DRA Armed Forces for the maintenance of the security and overall peace, and the USSR's timely help for Afghanistan.

The ceremony ended with preformance of a concert by the orchestra group of the State Committee for Culture.

Armed Groups Surrender in Three Provinces

LD222345 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Three armed groups, comprising 42 persons, who belonged to the counterrevolutionary bands, surrendered to the security authorities in Kabul, Takhar, and Faryab Provinces recently by taking advantage of the amnesty decree of the DRA Revolutionary Council Presidium and the message and resolutions of the historical Great Assembly.

While regretting their past activities, they pledged to struggle for defense of the revolution and the achievements of the revolution and for the safeguarding of the country and the interest of the toilers of the country.

Quoting a security forces source, a BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the above mentioned groups joined the state and their people at Shakardara District, Kabul Province; Sherin Tagab District, Faryab Province, and Yangi Qala District, Takhar Province.

Latest Armed Forces Actions Against Rebels

32 Counterrevolutionaries Captured

LD240618 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT
24 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, February 23, BAKHTAR — As a result of successful operations carried out by the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan, DRA, 21 counterrevolutionaries were killed and 32, rpt 32, were captured alive in Takhar and Jauzjan Provinces, north of DRA.

A large quantity of heavy and light arms, anti-DRA propaganda pamphlets and a number of foodstuff depots were captured by the Armed Forces in these areas.

Similarly, 12 bandits who were plundering the personal luggage of travelers on the highway between Kabul and Baghlan provinces were killed by the Armed Forces of the DRA. These bandits belonged to the criminal band of Gulbuddin.

17 Killed; Supplies Confiscated

LD250730 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Kabul, February 24, BAKHTAR — Seventeen bandits were killed and two wounded as a result of the successful operation of Armed Forces in the Provinces of Farah, West and Faryab, north of the DRA.

A large number of heavy and light arms, including two depots of medicine 4 heavy machine guns, 480 boxes of rockets, 300 anti-personnel mines, 2 binoculars and 120 boxes full of heavy machinegun bullets were captured by the Armed Forces of the DRA.

Rebels Capture 30 Soviet Troops, Down Helicopter

GF251115 Jeddah Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 25 Feb 86

[Text] Western diplomatic sources have reported that numbers of Afghan mujahidin, disguised in police uniforms, captured 30 Soviet paratroopers who landed ina region east of Kabul. Sources say that fighting erupted following the incident, which took place near the town of (?Sarowbii) last week. The fate of the Soviet soldiers was not known.

Citing reports coming from Afghanistan, the sources said that the mujahidin shot down a Soviet helicopter near Kabul last Friday. They also executed two Soviet soldiers near Salang Pass.

Gandhi Speaks on Domestic, Foreign Affairs

BK2716541 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister has called upon the people to fight communal forces unitedly. He said communalism must not be used as a political tool. Mr Rajiv Gandhi was replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha on the motion of thanks to the president's address. The motion was later adopted.

Referring to the Punjab accord, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the vote, which the people of the state gave, was a vote against terrorism. Those who gave the call for boycott of the poll were rebuffed by the electorate, who came out in large number to exercise their franchise. He said if the Akali government fails to contain terrorism in Punjab, it would be letting down the electorate.

In his 85-minute reply to the 10-hour debate, he said it is for the Punjab government to push the terrorists back. The prime minister agreed that the Punjab accord has received certain setbacks. He said setting up of another commission to go into the question of villages to be transferred to Haryana in lieu of Chandigarh is being looked into. The new commission cannot be given precisely the same terms of reference as the Mathew commission; otherwise the result may be the same. This is to be sorted out with the chief ministers of Punjab and Haryana. Efforts are also under way to explore the possibilities of a mutual settlement between the chief ministers. We hope to move ahead, he said.

The prime minister told the house that the Muslim women protection of right on divorce bill in no way dilutes the rights of Muslim women given under Sections 125 and 127 of the Criminal Procedure Code. In fact, it goes much beyond the two sections. He pointed out that Shah Banu had to fight for 6 years in court under Sections 125 and 127 to get a paltry sum of 179 rupees per month. He made it clear that no minority community should feel that it is being deprived of the basic rights it got under the personal law. He described the bill as secular in outlook. He said personal law of a religion did not reduce our secularism in any way. He assured the opposition, if they had any substantive points pertaining to the bill, the government would look into them.

Mr Gandhi observed that we should see that issues which divide communities are not raised to a level from where they cannot be brought down. Such matters are not for gaining political advantage.

Referring to the Assam accord, Mr Gandhi pointed out that its implementation is going on well. Ministries dealing with giving shape to the accord are optimistic the way it is going.

Referring to the opposition sponsored bundh [strike] yesterday, the prime minister said that the nation cannot progress with bundhs and closures. Every time a bund is called, the country loses money. He held the opposition responsible for the loss of 225 crore rupees through yesterday's bundh.

Mr Gandhi pointed out that the bundh is not a question of economy alone. More than that, those organizing the bundh get together with the communal forces.

Referring to his government's achievement in the last 1 year, he said a new scheme has been devised to monitor all antipoverty programs at the block level.

About the new education policy, he said a paper on this will be introduced in the current session of Parliament. A comprehensive legislation to control hazardous substances will also be introduced in this session.

Mr Gandhi announced that government proposes to set up a group consisting of treasurers from national and regional parties to devise way of making the accounts of political parties public. He said if the opposition agrees, we can go ahead with this proposal.

Mr Gandhi also told the house that science (?trust) missions are being set up in vital areas like drinking water, illiteracy, immunization of children, and oil seed.

Turning to foreign affairs, the prime minister disclosed that the Sri Lankan Government has given a new paper to India on the ethnic problem, which, he said, goes somewhat beyond the last paper. He expressed the hope that it will represent a sufficient move forward.

On Pakistan, Mr Gandhi pointed out that during President Zia's visit to New Delhi, a time schedule was worked out for normalization of relations. He reiterated that steps taken by the two countries in this direction will be to mutual advantage, in trade and other areas the opening up should be simultaneously.

On the border issue, Mr Gandhi said that much progress has not been made. He declared that we will not be easily swayed from our position, which we consider right.

The prime minister described the Soviet Union as an old, reliable, and proven friend of India. Our relations with no other country can change this relationship. He said we have also improved our relations with the United States.

Calling for national cohesion, Mr Gandhi said that the government believes in the policy of consensus and conciliation, but this should not be mistaken for weakness and indecisiveness.

Affirms Commitment to Punjab Accord

BK2610141 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The prime minister asserted in the Lok Sabha today that the center hs not deviated from implementing the Punjab accord. Intervening during question hour, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said we are in touch with the chief minsiters of Haryana and Punjab. He said the appointment of the Mathew Commission was in line with the accord. The commission pointed out that it was for the center to take steps as it deems fit either by settling the issue between the two chief ministers or by setting up another commission. We are proceeding accordingly, the prime minister said.

Earlier, the home minister, Mr S.B. Chavan, said there is no question of going back on the government's commitment on transferring Chandigarh to Punjab.

Foreign Minister Accuses Sri Lanka of Truce Violations

HK261628 Hong Kong AFP in English 1613 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26 (AFP) — Foreign Minister Bali Ram Bhagat Wednesday delivered a stern broadside at the Sri Lankan government accusing it of killing innocent Tamils and violating truce arrangements.

Mr Bhagat told parliament that Colombo had "a week or two" to reach a political settlement to the ethnic conflict which it faces with Tamil militant separatists.

He did not say what action India would take after this period had expired.

He accused Sri Lankan security forces of killing innocent Tamils, systematically violating truce arrangements and seeking a military solution to the problem.

Mr Bhagat also said that violence in Sri Lanka contained "elements of genocide" which Colombo had to put an end to.

Observers here said it was the toughest Indian statement yet on the ethnic strife in Sri Lanka.

Mr Bhagat's comments followed defeats for the ruling Congress (I) Party and its ally the All-India Anna D.M.K. Earlier this week in elections in the Tamil dominated southern state of Tamil Nadu.

Tamils in the Indian state have supported the Tamils in Sri Lanqa and observers said the election reverses were a clear indication of disapproval of New Delhi's role in the issue.

India has been mediating between Colombo and militant Tamil separatist groups in an effort to find a negotiated settlement.

Punjab Panel To Ask Gandhi To Implement Accord

BK270354 Delhi Domestic Service in English 240 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] In Punjab, the state-level Communal Harmony and National Integration Council has expressed deep concern at the attempts of some elements operating from inside and outside the country to disturb the traditional harmony. In a resolution adopted at a meeting in Chandigarh yesterday, it urged the center to effectively check the alleged infiltration of such elements from a neighboring country. The resolution strongly condemned the killing of innocent persons. It also appealed to the people and government to identify and isolate the forces responsible for such crimes. The meeting also decided to send a subcommittee to request the prime minister to implement the Punjab accord without further delay. The meeting, presided over by the chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, was attended by over 70 members representing major political, social, religious, and cultural organizations.

States Take Steps To Maintain Peace During Strike

BK260345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] The center has advised the state governments to take all necessary measures to maintain peace and to ensure running of essential services in view of the bundh [strike] call today given by some opposition parties. They have been asked to carefully assess the law and order situation. Antisocial elements who may try to take advantage during the bundh should be firmly dealt with.

The bundh is not being observed in West Bengal, Tripura, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi and Chandigarh. In Jammu and Kashmir also all the opposition parties have decided not to observe the bundh today in view of the present situation in the state.

Reports from several states say that law and oyder machinery has been geared up to maintain peace in view of the bundh. In Madhya Pradesh, all security arrangements have been made to provide protection to those employees attending the government offices and industrial establishments. The state chief minister, Mr Motilal Vohra, has called upon the people to boycott the bundh because stoppage of work would cause severe obstacles to the country's march toward progress.

The Uttar Pradesh chief minister, Mr Vir Bahadur Singh, and the Gujarat chief minister, Amarsinh Chaudhary, have also appealed to the people to stay away from the bundh. The Maharastra chief minister has warned that any breach of peace in the state will be the sole responsibility of those who have given the bundh call. In Bombay, suburban as well as mail and express trains from the central and western railways, are running on schedule. The city transport buses and two wheelers however, are off the road. The Bombay City police have rounded up over 1,000 people as a precautionary measure.

In Karnataka, both the houses of legislature will not meet today in view of the bundh call. The chief minister, Mr Ramakrishna Hegde, has appealed to the people to ensure that no untoward incident takes place.

The Kerala home minister, Mr Vayalar Ravi, has said that violence will be firmly dealt with. In Bihar, the police force has been deputed to ensure safety to public property and to maintain normal regular traffic.

In Gujarat, all precautionary measures have been taken to prevent any kind of violence. Adequate police arrangements have been made at all the important installations and at sensitive places throughout the state. The chief minister, Mr Amrsinh Chaudhary, said that police protection will be provided to all shopkeepers and others to want to stay away from the bundh.

The Indian National Trade Union Congress gas said that bundh will be counterproductive. Voicing concern it said there will be loss of production which will augment shortage and contribute to

further rise in prices.

1,000 in 'Preventive Custody'

HK261155 Hong Kong AFP in English 1054 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 26 (Afp) — At least 1,000 opposition supporters were taken into preventive custody Wednesday as a 24-hour strike protesting government price hikes got under way with a partial response, state-owned radio said.

About 100 volunteers from the right-wing Pro-Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party blocked trains in the west coast city of Bombay, but the blockades were removed by police, Press Trust of India [PTI] reported.

At least 1,000 supporters of various opposition political parties were taken into preventive custody as the strike began in protest against price hikes, state-owned All India Radio said, without giving details.

Called by 12 opposition parties mainly to protest at the price rises, the strike is also being supported by 6.2 million government employees protesting against a recent constitutional amendment empowering the government to sack any of its employees without giving reasons, a spokesman for the employees said.

Delhi and four provinces have been excluded either because strikes have already been held there protesting against the hikes or because of "disturbed conditions" in the states.

State-owned Indian airlines were operating all domestic flights normally, PTI said.

The radio meanwhile in its 2 pm news bulletin said that the strike evoked a partial response.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's government increased prices on several products including petroleum on February 1. Widespread protests even from ruling party members forced the government to trim the increases on February 5, but this still failed to pacify the opposition.

Opposition deputies walked out of parliament after the chairman refused to allow them to raise the strike issue.

In the upper house of the Parliament, the opposition, except the pro-congress (I) Tamil Payty the Aidmk [All India Dravidian Progressive Federation], left after voicing support for the strike, PTI said.

Sikhs Raid Police Armory Near Amritsar

HK240902 Hong Kong AFP in English 0829 GMT 24 Feb 86

[Text] New Delhi, Feb 24 (AFP) — Suspected Sikh separatists looted a police armoury near the Sikh holy city of Amritsar during a pre-dawn assault Monday, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

Armed men in police uniform, believed to be Sikhs, gained entrance to the railway police armoury at Tarn Taran by fooling the guards into thinking they were inspectors, PTI said.

After disarming the guards, they fled in a jeep with weapons which included 16 rifles and 475 rounds of ammunition, the report said.

This was the first raid on an armoury since the June 1984 Indian Army assault on Amritsar's Golden Temple in which 650 people were killed.

Last month Sikh militants, who are campaigning for a separate Sikh homeland, seized control of the temple from the moderates who are in power in the strategic border state.

Sikh Students Group Breaks Ties With Akali Dal

BK270318 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] News agency reports from Amritsar say that the All India Sikh Students Federation has snapped its relations with the Akali Dal led by Mr Joginder Singh. The secretary of the federation, Mr Kuldip Singh Kehlon, told newsmen that this is because of sharp differences over functioning and policy matters.

UAE President Arrives; Received by Ziaul Haq, Junejo

BK271116 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Excerpt] President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Islamabad this afternoon on a 3-day official visit. He was given an enthusiastic welcome. President Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo welcomed him. He was given a 21-gun salute and six planes of the Pakistan Air Force also gave salute to the distinguished guest.

Junejo Speaks on Domestic Policy, Defense

BK221730 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo said the government will make every possible effort to strengthen the security and sovereignty of the country through a strong national defense and a balanced foreign policy. He was delivering a lecture at the National Defense College on the topic of the government's national priorities and objectives. He said that freedom is a precious objective and demands that we be cautious. There will not be any progress without freedom, and the well-being gained under subjugated conditions is meaningless. The prime minister said national security means protection of the country both internally and externally. Without economic stability and social welfare, protection from foreign aggression has no meaning. On the contrary, in this case it becomes impossible.

He said that in an extraordinary political and geographic atmosphere Pakistan is surrounded by serious conditions both internally and externally, and we should realize this. The conditions that cause concern for us demand that our Armed Forces be stronger. This situation has compelled the present government to earmark the maximum amount within its limited resources to help fulfill the needs of national security. Mohammad Khan Junejo emphatically said that defense of countries does not depend only on the might of weapons, but also on their determination and morale. Our sincere desire is to avoid war and strife. In view of this objective the government will have to play an impressive role through its foreign policy. However, he said, eradicating illiteracy in the society, unemployment, injustice and corruption rampant in society are no less important than the objective of national security. He said the government is determined to end all these problems.

The Prime Minister drew attention to the fact that after a lengthy period of political stalemate, the elected government will have to determine not only its objectives and priorities but also set up a new framework for a totally new political process. He explained the conditions that compelled the elected government to take steps to initiate the political process to lift martial law, establish a nonparty house, restore fundamental rights after 20 years, and establish a real, stable democractic system based on Islamic teachings and ideologies in Pakistan. Mohammad Khan Junejo explained the objectives and priorities of his government. These include stabilization of the political process, which has already been initiated, setting up a just economic system, eradicating unemployment and illiteracy, making educational facilities available for the total participation of people in this era of science and technology, waging a holy war against injustice and corruption, and strengthening national defense. He expressed the hope that before the expiry of their tenure of office, elected officials will be able to promote these objectives further.

Tension With India Mounts Over 'Interfernce' Charge

HK281202 hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Islamabad, Feb 28 (AFP) — Diplomatic tension between Pakistan and India heightened Thursday after Pakistani Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani declared that Pakistan's interest in violence against Moslems in India was "natural" and "cannot be regarded as an act of interference."

Mr. Noorani made his comment to the Pakistan National Assembly in reply to accusations of "interference" amde Tuesday by Indian Foreign Affairs minister B.R. Bhagat.

The sudden friction between the neighbours comes after indications of a thaw in relations last month, diplomatic observers said here.

Mr. Bhagat's remarks were in response to Pakistani concern expressed over the transformation of a mosque into a Hindu temple at Ayodhya in the northeast Indian State of Uttar Pradesh and violence between Moslem and Hindu communities in several Indian towns.

Pakistan has kept a watchful eye on the plight of Moslems in India many of whom have relations in Pakistan because of the exodus which followed the partition of India and Pakistan in 1947.

The current diplomatic attacks could jeopardise a planned visit by Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to Islamabad and even scupper a recent nuclear non-aggression pact made between the countries.

India is also closely watching a visit by Pakistani Finance Minister Mohamad Yassin Khan Wattoo to Washington to renegotiate an economic and military aid agreement orginally made in 1981 to counter the presence of the Soviet Union in Afghanistan.

Pakistan has so far received 3.2 billion dollars from the United States, but would like to double that amount from 1987. The Indians say that the military aid is not used against Afghanistan, but against them.

U.S. diplomatic sources have said that because of tight budget restrictions in Washington the chances of such an increase are between new Delhi and Islamabad.

BANGLADESH

PRC President Li Xiannian To Visit 8 March

BK260711 Dhaka BSS in English 0620 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Dhaka, Feb 26 (BSS) — Chinese President Li Xianman will arrive here on March 8 on a four-day visit to Bangladesh at the invitation of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The Chinese president will be accompanied by Madame Li Xiannian. The two presidents will have an official talk at Bangabhaban on 9 March.

SRI LANKA

LANKA PUWATH Denies Reported Massacre of Tamils

BK281117 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] The national news agency, LANKA PUWATH, has denied reports that innocents had been killed by the security forces in the east of the country. A report which appeared in *THE GUARDIAN* newspaper said that upto 80 people, mainly Tamil farm workers, are said to have been killed and their bodies burnt in a massacre. It said that farm workers were threshing paddy when troops appeared from the jungle firing into the air. The farm workers were reported to be taken to paddy fields and shot. The report also said that several empty cases of ammunition had been found in the field.

A BBC report said that there had been a shooting incident on Wednesday and the details are only just reaching Colombo. It quoted eyewitnesses as saying the victims were farm workers and that many bodies had been burnt on the spot.

However, LANKA PUWATH quoted security sources as saying that 40 terrorists had been killed in a clash with troops. The news agency said that security forces had carried out the attack because the paddy fields had been commandeered by Tamil terrorists.

'Terrorist' Activities in Provinces Reported

BK261132 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Text] Security forces who were on patrol in Mannar town were ambushed by terrorists close to a bridge yesterday. The troops were fired upon from two sides. A mine was exploded from the market and resthouse side. As a result of this one soldier died, but the security forces managed to repulse the attack. Thereafter, the security forces searched the town area and found that a child had been killed caught up in the cross fire. According to LANKA PUWATH a Tamil person was found tied to a lamp-post and killed at the (Paramvan) junction. There was a sign saying that he was a traitor. The terrorist TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] organization has claimed responsibility for the killing.

LANKA PUWATH said yesterday that Muslims living in the north and east of Sri Lanka have now become the target of Marxist terrorists operating in these two provinces. Earlier, five Muslim paddy land owners were brutally murdered by Marxist terrorists at Layrampallawai, Lahugala in Amparai district, and their paddy land was taken over by the terrorists. Last week, a Muslim driver was killed by Marxist terrorists for refusing to stop the vehicle which he was driving.

Tamil Leader Killed in Jaffna Peninsula Attack

HK280744 Hong Kong AFP in English 0722 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, Feb 28 (AFP) — Twelve people died and 25 were wounded in government air strikes against militant Tamil separatists in northern Sri Lanka Thursday, Tamil residents said Friday.

National Security Ministry sources could not confirm the figures, but said that reports received so far said a leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), one of the major militant organisations, was killed and three others wounded in the attacks.

The leader was identified only as Lucas and was said to have smuggled a cache of arms in from India recently, the sources said.

Reliable sources in Colombo said that the residents' casualty figures were believeable because the Air Force had struck at four places in the Jaffna Peninsula and used rockets for the first time.

Officials Thursday said that the Armed Forces had launched strikes to pre-empt a massive offensive against military camps in Jaffna scheduled for Friday. They said the air strikes were aimed at hideouts of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and the Tamil Eelam Army (Tea), who they had also had planned bombings in Colombo.

Reliable sources said that Colombo is likely to make a strong statement charging New Delhi with bullying and trying to force it into a solution, following Foreign Minister Balram Bhagat's remarks on the Tamil issue Thursday in the India Parliament.

Mr Bhagat said India would raise the alleged killings of innocent Tamil in Sri Lanka at a human rights commission meeting in Geneva, accused Colombo of professing a political solution but opting for a military solution, and said a political solution should be arrived at within one month. Colombo's statement most likely will come after Deputy Foreign minister Tyronne Fernando takes his oath as acting foreign minister in the absence of Foreign Minister Shahul Hameed who is out of the country.

Government sources who asked not to be named said India was trying to dictate to Colombo. The mainly government-owned daily OBSERVER newspaper here Friday quoting observers chided Mr Bhagat for a his "blatantly one-sided approach" and his blindness to the "indiscriminate killings by terrorists."

French Nationals Expelled For Espionage

LD27170] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The Interior Ministry has announced in a statement that the order for the expulsion of four French nationals residing in Iran, on the grounds of espionage, has been issued. These individuals were expelled from the country today. The names of these individuals are: Jacque Charmelot, Bruno Kermadic, Gilles Picot, and Bertrand Madelin.

Khamene'i Discusses Victories With Military Attaches

LD271840 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Mr Khamene'i, president of the Republic and chairman of the Supreme Defense Council, met today with military attaches of the Islamic Republic of Iran serving abroad. He expounded upon the recent victories scored by Islam's combatants in the "Val-Fajr-8" and "Val-Fajr-9" operations and described the fear felt by the Iraqi pilots of coming to the battlefields. He said: In circumstances in which we are facing an arms embargo we have succeeded in shooting down 60 enemy aircraft in 15 days, among which could be seen such extremely sophisticated aircraft as the MiG-25. In these victories a great many enemy forces were either destroyed or surrendered.

Referring to the role played by the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad, whether political, cultural, military, or economic, Mr Khamene'i stressed: You should make an Islamic, revolutionary atmosphere predominate in your mission's offices. You should be increasingly interested in the conceptions of the revolution, because it is from your actions and words that those who live abroad will become acquainted with and sense the realities of the Islamic revolution.

In conclusion, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: Our Army and Armed Forces are doing miraculous work, and the operations now taking place are among the greatest tasks. The fact that we have driven back the enemy by 850 sq km is a cause of pride and glory to us.

Musavi Receives DPRK Foreign Trade Minister

LD221908 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 22 Feb 86

[Text] In a meeting this morning with Prime Minister Musavi, the DPRK deputy minister of foreign trade discussed practical ways of expanding bilateral trade. Having conveyed greetings from his country's premier, the government, and the people of the DPRK to the prime minister, the envoy announced that the DPRK premier's visit to Iran will take place shortly. He also discussed with Prime Minister Musavi the United States' activities in the Korean peninsula, under the name of "Team Spirit 86". During the meeting, Prime Minister Musavi, noting the two countries' anti-imperialist stands, emphasized the need for expansion of trade relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the DPRK.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Conducts Friday Prayers

LD281339 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, conducting the Friday prayers sermons in Tehran today, said in connection with UN Security Council resolutions that they show that the powers and those that have influence in the Council do not want the war to end. Our analysis is therefore correct, they are exploiting the conflict and the imposed war. What they do not want is to see a winner in this war. They are even prepared to see the Islamic Republic of Iran defeated, something which is impossible. For that reason, we have repeatedly stated how the war may be ended, and we repeat that once again, namely that they should condemn the aggressor, the one that started the war. We know that the minimum sentence passed at such a trial would be the death sentence for Saddam and for the leaders of the Iraqi Ba'thist Party.

The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly stressed: The Security Council could unequivocally state that Saddam is the aggressor, that he started the war. Of course, it should also have condemned actions such as strikes at ships, using chemical weapons, strikes at passenger airliners, and so forth. But, unfortunately it did not do that, and like cowards its members spoke in terms of allusions. By that action it blocked the way to ending the war. Thus, in response to its insipid and insignificant resolution we shall continue our path, namely the continuation of the war until the overthrow of the aggressor and warmonger.

Continuing his remarks, Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the events in Egypt over the past few days and to the country's revolutionary movement. He said: This development is a great revolutionary movement; the Egyptian nation, which has been humiliated during the recent decade, is going to make up for its political backwardness. What is happening is not superficial, it is deep-seated. We congratulate the Egyptian people. Their action has injected life into the Islamic world. Their action has shaken the arrogants of this world and the regions' ringleaders. The Egyptian people's revolutionary movement can be destiny-making for the peoples in the region.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council then described the successful "Val-Fajr-8" and "-9" operations. He said: As we predicted, the area concerned has become a slaughterhouse for the Iraqi Army as well as a slaughterhouse for the cultural and propaganda credibility of world arrogance. The speaker of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, referring to the lies being spread by the loudspeakers of world arrogance and the double-talk put about by them said: The credibility of imperialist news media has collapsed as a result of their lies about the current stage of our operations. Over the past 2 weeks they spread many lies addressed to us and to the people in the region. We do not know how desperate they have become to lie in this way. The issue must be very important for them to have to insist on lying. At the current stage, Saddam, his commanders and his regime's leaders told lies, as did Israel, the BBC and the U.S. The news centers of world arrogance, after admitting that Iraq has been defeated, have for some time now been saying that Iraq has started to retake Al-Faw.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: Those propaganda media knew well what to feed the people; they realize that the Iraqi Ba'thist Party is on the verge of disintegration; they know that the events in Egypt are connected with our combatants' victory on the fronts. They are trying to keep the world bewildered, to prevent Islamic revolutionaries from becoming suddenly alive, in an effort to pour water over the fire by spreading false reports and in so doing, preventing the feelings of the revolutionaries from being strengthened. They are doing this even though they realize they would lose their credibilty.

Continuing to comment on the "Val-Fajr-8" operations, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council said: From the day we crossed the waters we have stayed where we intended to stay. We have not retreated even by 1 inch. The Iraqis themselves know this. The Army, the corps and the Basij forces have some 900 square kilometers under their control.

The report [as heard] says that the imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council also gave a report about the latest victories of the combatants of Islam. The masses of the Tehran congregation, after hearing the latest war reports on the victories of the combatants of Islam, expressed their sentiments by shouting the crushing slogan: War, war until victory! Iraqi POW's attending the ceremony also shouted slogans such as: We have pledged allegiance to Imam Khomeyni.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defense Council also referred to the victories of the combatants of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-9" operations. He said: So far our combatants have advanced about 20 kilometers deep into the snow covered Sulaymaniyah mountains. We selected this area in response to the moves and plots of world arrogance and those of its agents in bringing down oil prices, and because from this area and also Iraq's Kirkuk more than 1 million tons of oil is being exported daily. Because we have always declared that our operations will be influenced by political considerations, we believe we must react to imperialist plots.

Addressing the popular forces and combatants, Hojjat ol-Eslam Val-Moslemin stressed: Those armies who are rushing to the fronts should continue to do so for some time to come. If our forces continue being reinforced at the fronts the enemy will become all the more frightened. The fronts should be kept active; we should be ready to strike the final blow at any time and in any area we choose. We hope (?the enemy) will come to his senses and give us what is due to us. If they fail to come to their senses and refuse to hand over the guilty and the warmonger, we will get what is due to us. International arrogance should also know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is invincible.

Trial of Iraqi 'War Criminals' Sought

LD271802 Tehran IRNA in English 1745 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 27, IRNA — Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Thursday told the disarmament conference in Geneva that the Islamic Republic seeks the trial of Iraqi Ba'th leader in a court similar to the one that sentenced Nazi war criminals after the Second World War.

Velayati said the Iraqi regime has violated international conventions on nine counts including attacks on residential areas, civilian planes and ships as well as deployment of chemical weapons.

Addressing the representatives of forty countries in the meeting, Velayati said if the international organizations fail to put the Iraqi war criminals on trial, the Islamic Republic will have the right to take the necessary measures on the issue.

"If international organizations can not reach a decision on disarmament can they not try and punish war criminals who use chemical weapons?" he asked.

A United Nations delegation is now visiting the Islamic Republic to investigate Iraq's deployment of chemical weapons, Velayati said.

But the foreign minister criticised the UN Security Council for failing to condemn Iraq for initiating the war against Iran in 1980. "When the Security Council fails to condemn Iraq for its violation of international conventions, Iraq becomes even more aggressive," he said.

UN Team Arrives To Check Iraqi Chemical Weapons Use

LD271856 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] The five-member UN secretary general's inspection team headed by Eqbal Reza, the director-general of the Political Bureau of this organization, which arrived this morning in Tehran in order to investigate the deployment of chemical weapons by the Iraqi regime, met with the deputy minister for international and economic affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In this meeting, the deputy minister while extending his greetings, stated: In spite of the hostile reaction of the Security Council, we respect the realistic attitude of the secretary general in connection with the war with Iraq, and hope that the investigations of this delegation will help to inform mankind and will open up some channels of action to prevent these kinds of inhuman crimes. He then stated: If the big powers ordered Iraq to start the war, then we now have the power to dictate to these powers the manner in which the war will end.

Then Eqbal Reza stated: The members of this delegation are more orless the same as those that took part in the past in a similar mission on a trip to Iran last year, and we hope that by conducting tests on samples that are left of weapons employed, we shall be able to prepare a comprehensive report on this issue.

SAIRI Says Agents Set To Destroy Baghdad's Bridges

LD271855 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Sources at the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) have reported that following the repeated defeats suffered by the Ba'th army on the southern and northern fronts, defeats the people have learned of despite the strict sensorship by the Baghdad regime, eyewitnesses have stated that

security forces and tanks have been deployed on Baghdad's streets. The SAIRI report added that if abnormal or dangerous incidents take place, agents of the people's army have been instructed to blow up Baghdad's bridges over the Tigris River.

Captured Iraqi Commander in 'Coma'

LD271103 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 27 Feb 86

[text] Al-Faw, Feb 27, IRNA — Reports reaching here from Khatem ol-Anbiya' joint Army-IRGC HQ said that the severely injured commander of Brigade 23 of the 8th Army, Colonel Ahmad 'Ali Nasir, was taken captive by the Islamic forces of Iran in a successful patrol-combat operation in Al-Faw peninsula Wednesday night.

In this operation the Iranian forces in a heroic thrust infiltrated the heart of the enemy positions and smashed their defensive lines.

Heavy casualties have been inflicted on the Iraqis whose military set-up has been totally disturbed.

According to latest reports, Colonel Ahmad 'Ali Nasir is said to be in a state of coma and despite little hope Iranian doctors are trying to save his life.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

"Val-Fajr-9" Communique No 4

LD271947 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 26 Feb 86

[Communique No 4 by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, joint center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, on the 27 February "Val-Fajr-9" operations]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

O selfless and struggling nation! The valiant forces of the front of the Light [Islam] have added more golden pages to Islamic history by their sacrifices during the "Val-Fajr-9" operations. Islam's forces have benefited from the undiminishing divine succor and by your prayers. During the continuing operations of the proud "Val-Fajr-9", Islam's forces are protecting and controlling the areas won earlier in the operation, defeating the feeble moves by the enemy. Advancing further against enemy positions deep inside Iraqi territory, Islam's forces liberated over 50 sq km to the east and northeast of Sulaymaniyah Province and hoisted the proud flag of endeared Islam above the snow-capped heights of the region.

So far, 300 sq km of land have been liberated in Iraq's Sulaymaniyah Province since the beginning of the victorious "Val-Fajr-9" operations. The warriors of the Islamic Revolution captured Mamukhlan Heights, including Heights 1461, 1410, 1394, 1360, 1358, 1295 and 1200. They also captured enemy bases along the strategic Heights of Hazar Ollah, extending their complete control over the region.

The Islamic combatants, liberating important heights in the region and stationing forces in the liberated areas, have brought three bridges between Chuwartah and Sulaymaniyah under fire. In the course of "Val-Fajr-9" operations, Islam's warriors succeeded in capturing more than 5 tanks, 10 Sahand missiles, and thousands of light weapons as well as a number of intact ammunition dumps, using its weapons against the enemy. In addition, large amounts of enemy equipment were destroyed, including 15 tanks, 10 AA units, and 90 vehicles.

The proud forces of the Islamic Army are being stationed throughout the liberated lands of the "Val-Fajr-9" operational zone. They are monitoring the enemy's moves in the area and dealing heavy blows to the defeated Saddamist forces.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

"Val-Fajr-9" Communique No 5

LD271204 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0030 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Communique No 5 issued by the Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful.

O heroic Islamic nation! O warrior, combatant nation of Iran!

Islam's intrepid, zealous combatants, repeating the sacred codename "Ya Allah! Ya Allah! Ya Allah!" have imparted fresh power to the battlefields, and the true sons of the Islamic revolution have created new epics! The selfless troops of Islam's victorious Army, continuing the triumphant "Val Fajr-9" operations, are fully deployed in the liberated positions. In heroic onslaughts against the bases of the vanquished enemy to the north and northeast of Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq, last night they succeeded in beginning the third phase of the glorious "Val Fajr-9" operations, aimed at destroying the waning Iraqi Ba'thist-Zionist forces, liberating sensitive heights in the region, and inflicting further heavy losses and casualties on the enemy. In this phase of the victorious "Val Fajr-9" operations, the heroes of the Islamic Army, killed hundreds of Ba'thist troops, and captured tens of others who were transferred to positions in the rear.

The God-seeking combatants of the Islamic Army, continuing the second phase of the victorious "Val Fajr-9" operations, succeeded in liberating the sensitive, strategic Tang-e Khowr height No 1220; the (Mu Barai) chain of heights, including heights Nos 1446, 1400, 1410, 1479, 1443, 1300, 1431, 1444; the (Kureh Deh) heights Nos 1300 and 1400; and the strategic Cham-e Tang area and its sensitive heights, including heights Nos 1176, 1210, 1245, 1200. After capturing these positions, our heroic forces planted the glorious banner of dear Islam on the snow-capped peaks.

The victorious heroes of Islam's liberation army have also succeeded in cleansing another 16 sensitive villages in the area from the odium of Ba'thist elements.

By liberating the heights and strategic regions to the north and northeast of Sulaymaniyah Province, more than 250 sq kms of Iraqi territory have been liberated by the mighty hand of the intrepid combatants of Islam, and the monotheistic troops in these areas are engaged in consolidating and strengthening the liberated positions.

The zealous and self-sacrificing soldiers of the imam of the era — may God almighty hasten his noble advent — have, since the beginning of the "Val Fajr-9" operations, evacuated more than 160 POW's to positions at the rear.

Succour from God, a speedy victory, and convey the glad tidings to the faithful. [Koranic verse]

[Signed] The Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters joint operational center of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps

Communique No 2394

LD271739 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 27, IRNA — Effective Iranian artillery fire on Iraqi positions in the western fronts Wednesday killed 10 Iraqi soldiers and destroyed several gun emplacements, according to a communique here Thursday.

The Communique Number 2394 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran says that Iraqi troops incurred substantial casualties and losses in the north-western fronts as their positions were shelled by Iranian forces.

In addition to heavy artillery fire on enemy positions, the Iranian Muslim combatants shelled Iraqi vehicle columns around Naft-shahr, Mandali, Maymak, and Kani-Sheykh halting their movements says the communique.

It says an Iraqi patrol unit operating near Kani-Sheykh came under Iranian artillery fire and was forced to flee.

In the southern fronts, the command says, Iranian Muslim forces, inflicted substantial casualties and damage on Iraqi troops and twice heavily shelled enemy engineering units and positions, disturbing their operations.

Meanwhile, the cities of Abadan and Khorramshahr in Khuzestan Province were hit by Iraqi long-range artillery fire Wednesday causing damage to some buildings in Abadan.

Victorious Clashes Reported

LD271422 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] According to a report received from Iraqi Kurdistan, at the same time as the victorious "Val Fajr-9" operations the Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi peshmargas, in a fierce battle lasting 8 hours, completely occupied (Guneh Gunch) and (Mandian) Bases in the vicinity of (Siddiq) district office. During these operations at least 18 Ba'thist military officers and soldiers of these two bases were killed and 15 were wounded. Because of the terror felt by the enemy from our approach to the fallen bases, the dead bodies are still lying on the ground.

According to these reports, during the clashes another group of Kurdish Hezbollahi peshmargas brought under their control the traffic along the Diyanah-Margah Suri Main highway. During this attack 30 weapons of various types and a lot of ammunition was captured by the Hezbollahi forces.

The report adds that yesterday a large-scale clash took place between the Kurdish tribes and the forces of the Iraqi People's Army in the Rawanduz area which resulted in the killing and wounding of scores of men on both sides. During that clash, Iraqi Army forces joined in the action on the side of the People's Army, firing on the (Diliziani) and (Badghani) camps and hamlets. As a result, a number of civilians, including women and children, were killed, but we still lack accurate figures on these casualties. The fighting is still continuing sporadically.

Sulaymaniyah Counterattack Repulsed

LD271734 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] N.E. Sulaymaniyah operation region, Feb 27, IRNA — An Iraqi counterattack backed by helicopter gunships and warplanes, was repulsed by Iran's Islamic combatants on the Heights of Mubra and Ka-Naser, Thursday morning.

During the three-hour counter-offensive, over 100 enemy troops were killed and wounded. A number of their military vehicles were also destroyed.

Also, 80 percent of battalion 2nd of Brigade 73 of the 7th Army of Iraq was destroyed.

Villages 'Liberated'

LD271833 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] N.E. Sulaymaniyah, Feb 27, IRNA — Two Iraqi counterattacks in Val-Fajr-9 battlefield in the north and northeast of Sulaymaniyah were repulsed Wednesday.

IRNA reporters on the frontlines said in the third stage of the offensive military posts in musk on the edge of the Hezar Qollah Heights as well as Suskan and Bari Pichok on Mubra Heights have been liberated by Muslim combatants.

The combatants also liberated the villages of Govaneh Dol, Kani Band, Kani Gozleh, Masholan, Hassan Gorak, Kani Hazan, Cham Yaleh, Goreh Dam, Din Chenareh, Bozan, Pilingeh, Benevileh, Mobota, Jozan, Pelato, Mubra, and Belkan.

"Val-Fajr-8" Counteroffensive Foiled

LD281123 Tehran IRNA in English 1103 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 28, IRNA — A heavy enemy counter-offensive was smashed by Iran's vigilant forces in Val-Fajr-8 operation region early Friday and 800 casualties were inflicted on the Iraqis. Another group of them were also taken captive.

Senior Iraqi army commanders, using the 8th corps, Forced demoralized Iraqi troops, with several execution squads behind them, to launch a counterattack which was crushed thanks to the vigilance of Iran's Muslim combatants.

During the repulsed counterattack two batallions of Brigade 23 of the eighth corps as well as a batallion of Infantry Brigade 603, were totally routed.

According to Iraqi troops taken captive Friday morning, the enemy counter-offensive was led personally by Iraqi Minister of Defence Gen Adnn Khayrallah, as well as commander of the Al-Faw northern front operation, Gen Mahir 'Abd al-Rashid; new commander of the 7th Corps, Gen Sa'di Tu'mahal-Jaburi; commander of the 'Muhammad al-Qadim' Force, Gen 'Ali Jasim al-Hayyani; and a commander of the East Basra operation region Brig General Tariq Najm 'Abdullah.

The POW's also said that a fire squad unit was behind the counter-attacking troops to shoot at them in case they flee.

A large number of Iraqi corpses reportedly litter the battle-ground.

Some enemy equipment was also set ablaze during the operation.

Helicopters 'Pound' Enemy Positions

LD271753 Tehran IRNA in English 1705 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] N.E. Sulaymaniyah operation region, Feb 27, IRNA — Brave pilots of Havaniruz (Army aviation support unit) Thursday pounded enemy positions and fortifications in this theater.

Havaniruz helicopters [words indistinct] missile attacked positions of retreating enemy troops on the heights of mountainous areas of Sulaymaniyah inflicting heavy casualties on them. An enemy battery was also destroyed in the operation.

The heroic operation by Havaniruz helicopters came at a time that enemy planes were flying in the operation region.

64 Planes Downed Since 9 Feb

LD281107 Tehran IRNA in English 1042 GMT 28 Feb 86

[Text] Tehran, Feb 28, IRNA — Majlis speaker Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a large group of Muslim worshippers here Friday that Iran's Islamic combatants had shot down two more Iraqi jet fighters in the Val Fajr-8 operation region in Al-Faw Peninsula, Friday.

This brings to 64 the number of enemy planes downed since the operation started on Feb 9.

Reports of Iraqi Chemical Weapons Use

LD271846 Tehran IRNA in English 1721 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Text] Al-Faw, Feb 27, IRNA — The Iraqi regime deployed more chemical weapons in the forefronts of the Val-Fajr-8 operation region in Al-Faw peninsula Thursday afternoon.

This was the second time in one day that the Baghdad regime resorted to the use of internationally banned chemical weapons.

On Thursday morning too, an Iraqi plane fired two chemical rockets at the Fajr-8 operation region inflicting some casualties.

Renewed deployment of chemical weapons by desperate ruler in Baghdad coincides with the presence here of a United Nations team to probe repeated enemy use of chemical weapons.

There were no immediate reports on number of casualties in this latest Iraqi war crime.

"Val-Fajr-9" POW Total Reaches 200

LD272106 Tehran IRNA in English 1947 GMT 27 Feb 86

[Excerpt] N.E. Sulaymaniyah Operation Region, Feb 27, IRNA — With the evacuation of more Iraqi POW's behind the fronts, the number of enemy troops taken captive in the course of operation Val Fajr-9, launched Monday night, reached 200. There are several Iraqi officers and NCO's among the POW's.